

DECEMBER EDITION

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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XC team achieves perfection by sweeping State



All photos courtesy of Mike Strasinger, Editor of SportsNashville.net.

By Stephen Bedard
Staff State Champ

On Saturday, November 6th, at 3:30 PM, the MBA Cross Country team began the TSSAA Division II Cross Country Cham-

pionships. Sixteen minutes and forty-eight seconds later, the team had completed the most dominating performance ever in a Tennessee state meet. The (as SportsNashville.net said) "Fab Five" of Michael Peters, Daniel Peters, Ryan Hill, Stephen Bedard,

and Andrew Powell finished in places one through five to record a perfect score of 15, beating Baylor's previous state record of 22 points. Unlike Baylor's score, however, the MBA cross country team set a record that can never be broken. I asked the other

varsity runners what they thought about the meet:

Michael replied, "I was only running fast so I could eat the fried honeybuns."

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Get'm, Buck! Young Buck talks with Jamie Joyce



Fresh off performing in England, Nashville rapper Young Buck sat down for an interview with *The Bell Ringer*.
Photo courtesy of Jamie Joyce.

By Jamie Joyce
Staff Writer

On a cold November 15, Nashville rapper, Young Buck, gets off the elevator on the sixth floor of a West End Avenue office building to meet with his lawyer. In the past few months his name has covered the pages of tabloid and music magazines, most commonly next to the word "bankrupt." Yet as he enters the room, wearing rimless glasses and carrying a file full of papers under his arm, he doesn't carry himself like a man with legal troubles. It's not ignorance. It's confidence. Getting his financial and legal work sorted out, with the number #1 mix-tape in the country and a brand new LP on the way, David Darnell Brown has already made his comeback.

He agreed to sit down with *The Bell Ringer* for a short interview to talk about his life at the moment:

BR: There seems to be a lot of dif-

ference between various artists describing themselves as rappers. How do you describe your music with respect to format? What makes you different?

YB: I describe my music as more of "reality rap." I make music pertaining to the realities of the world – the good and the bad. It is "conscious rap." There's a difference between that and "gangsta rap." As an artist, I try to reinvent myself every time I come around. That's what the fans look for from an artist. After every CD, I don't think they come back just to look for the same thing they got the first time. To sum it up – it's reality-based.

BR: How do you think growing up in Nashville influenced your music?

YB: Growing up in Nashville influenced my music because there were no other rap artists from here that had a national presence. I always wanted to show that hip hop does live in Nashville. Nashville was

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THE BELL RINGER

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Hard hits are part of the game...

By Connor Caldwell
Sports Editor

The new restrictions on tackling in the NFL are familiar to all sports fans, and much discussion has arisen about them. In my opinion, as a player and an avid fan, it will drastically change the way the game is played...for the worse.

The new rules officially state "The initial force of a blindside block can't be delivered by a helmet, forearm or shoulder to an opponent's head or neck. An illegal blindside block will bring a 15-yard penalty" and "Initial contact to the head of a defenseless receiver also will draw a 15-yard penalty."

Yes, these rules may seem good for the players at first glance, but how can you expect players to change the way they play? Football is a sport dominated by players who no longer think to play, but play by instinct. The current players have been physically and mentally conditioned for 20+ years to tackle and block the way they are now.

After talking with our local expert, Mark McIntosh, MBA's head trainer, he revealed to me an interesting point. Someone had asked why concussions were becoming so prevalent in high school football.

...but rule changes are, too

By Andrew Powell
Editor-in-Chief

"It ruins the game. I know there have been some (injuries), but there are more injuries from other types of contact. Football is getting soft."

Steelers linebacker James Harrison briefly considered retirement after the National Football League began taking serious action to reduce head injuries. He was justified in his anger over their actions – the forcefulness of their response took everyone by surprise – but claiming he would retire...really, Mr. Harrison?

With the recent uproar about fines and suspensions, one would assume the quotation above refers to the changing policies and how they are destroying the integrity of the game.

Actually, that analyst was just talking about the then new Horse-Collar rule in 2005.

The arguments against Horse-Collar were exactly the same as the head injury related ones, just on a much smaller scale. Critics said, and now say today, that it's wrong to prohibit the defender's ability, as Connor said, "to do whatever it takes to get him (the ball-carrier) on the ground."

The problem is a group of things called rules. Football is full of them – everyone in Australia told me the reason they did not like "American Footy" is because it has so many more rules than Soccer or Rugby Union. As a culture of fanatics we are so used to the fundamentals

His response was to blame our pee-wee league coaches.

These coaches were obviously not teaching us to hit and tackle with the intention of causing us head injuries, but the emphasis on delivering a blow to the other player, reinforced by the hype about devastating hits in the professional and collegiate levels, often overshadowed the importance of a safe hit. Now, as our bodies are much bigger and more muscular, hitting in the same manner is much more dangerous.

But as a player, the idea of safety and self-preservation goes out the window during the heat of a game. When a running back is going through the hole, he is not thinking about how to properly angle his head to protect his neck, but rather how he is going to truck the man standing between him and the open field. As a defensive player, when the ball-carrier is anywhere close, I will do whatever it takes to get him on the ground, whether that be a crushing blindside hit, jumping on his back, or taking out his legs. Never once does my, or his, safety enter my mind. My sole intent is to get him down, however that may be. The rules seek to ban a certain type of hit, but what player will be able to avoid the other player's head when he is tackling him. It is just impractical to ask that.

To ask the players to change the

that there is serious resistance whenever a change is proposed.

We're fine with facemask penalties, ok with flags for Horse-Collars, and in complete support of the "block-in-the-back" rule, but when a new rule is proposed that will have physical health benefits one-hundred fold any of the other rules, we cry out against it just because it means we will not get to watch (and re-watch fifteen times) James Harrison decapitating helpless receivers flying across the right hash mark.

During the Eagles – Giants game the night of November 21, Ellis Hobbs went down with an apparent head/neck injury. It was a legal hit by the current rules, as the hit was on the ball carrier in open field, but nonetheless it was hard enough to force the player to stay down for a few minutes before being carted off the field on a stretcher. This event unfolded ironically as I was writing this very editorial.

Commentator Cris Collinsworth was noticeably affected by seeing yet another player taken off the field after a collision. He said, "What the league is trying to do to cut down on these vicious hits – people need to quit arguing – it's the right thing to do."

Over 60% of players on NFL rosters have had concussions before. Think about that – that statistic includes people like Rusty Smith and Tyler Thigpen, who only see the field when Kerry Collins and Vince Young, or Chad Henne and Chad Pennington both go down.

Over 30% of players have had three or more concussions; 15% have had five or more. 51% overall have been knocked unconscious at least once.

While concussions get the brunt of the attention (and blame) for ensuing

way they play is like asking a dog to not chase a cat. For players at such a high level as the NFL, playing the game is pure instinct. These rules will only be effective if they are implemented at the lower levels first, and follow the upcoming generation of athletes. If taught at a young age, these rules too will become instinct.

Many are worried that with the advancement of helmets, a false sense of security is felt, and it is being used more as a weapon than as defense. Some suggest removing the facemask of the helmet to prevent this phenomenon. In my opinion, removing the facemask will simply break people's faces. Rugby has no helmets, and guys have their eyes gouged out. Nobody wants to see that on TV. I don't care how violent you believe Americans are, there is always a line.

Last, the fan base of the NFL would be greatly disappointed if the big hits were removed. So much about the game is predicated around physicality, and implementing rules to limit the ferocity of hits is changing the very essence of the game itself.

Football is a physical game – it always has been. People nowadays are just growing soft and can't bear the physicality. We cannot expect to change the game because a few people have had serious injuries. They knew the risks going into the game, and we should too.

health problems – such as the 31% of ex-players who admit having difficulty with memory – researchers are now saying that the daily battering of hits that fall short of "concussion" status can have terrible effects as well.

Some argue that concussions will become a thing of the past with advances in technology. The Revolution helmet is supposed to massively reduce likelihood of a concussion; the Schutt markets their DNA helmet as "concussion-proof," which is a total farce. Unfortunately, "better" equipment is only facilitating faster and harder hitting. Players' muscles are continually getting bigger and stronger while the biology of the brain stays the same.

The necessity of these new rule changes (and possibly more changes), and strict adherence to them by the League, is not only to cut down on the shocking injuries sustained during the game, but to reduce the long-term crippling effects the fierce impacts will have. Removal of the facemask, as Connor said, may seem extreme, but if losing an eye means remembering how you lost it – not to mention the first 50 years of your life – it may just be worth it.

The problem is much bigger than people want to admit. Whether the rule changes affect the game for the worse is now irrelevant. Change must happen to counter-act this growing problem. People should quit arguing over whether or not to act; the real question is how to act, to reduce the problem while not changing how the game is played too dramatically. I am confident that, with concentrated efforts on both sides, a medium can be found that maintains what we love about football, and allows the people who play it to remember ten years later what they love about it.

Rep. win not a mandate

By Jesse Suh
Staff Editor/Analyst

By now, most MBA students have heard about the drubbing the Democrats received in the 2010 Congressional mid-term elections. To go quickly over the facts, the Democrats lost the House of Representatives to the Republicans while narrowly holding on to the Senate. The sixty-seat filibuster-proof majority in the Senate is also gone.

The knee-jerk reaction to such convincing Republican gains has been to consider the election as a referendum on the Obama agenda. A recent *Washington Post* article went as far as to say that the President has become so ineffective that he should not seek re-election in 2012. Are Obama and the Democrats really in such bad condition that a potential rebound is inconceivable?

We shouldn't be too hasty. While a recent CNN poll suggested seven of ten voters were against Democratic policies, only seventeen percent of voters felt the mid-term elections were a mandate for GOP policies. Consequently, being consistent with the 1994 and 2006 elections, the elections were perceived more as getting the "bums" out of Congress.

This may not speak well for the Republican representatives in the House who have made it their main policy agenda to repeal the President's healthcare reforms. A battle of attrition over health care repeal will (1) most likely not be successful since

the Democrats still hold the Senate and Obama has veto power, and (2) focus attention away from the issue on top of most citizens' minds—fixing the economy.

The still-stagnant economy is ultimately the primary reason for a Republican takeover in Congress. With the unemployment rate still hovering around ten percent, voters made clear their dissatisfaction of the Democratic economic policies. Historically, if the party in control presides over a period of slow economic growth, they suffer in the elections. It was true just two years ago, when Obama's victory was all but ensured by the collapse of Lehman Brothers, though there were other factors as well—see Palin, Sarah.

Whatever the reason for the slow economic recovery—the slowness of the release of stimulus funds and the inability to cut taxes for the middle class among many—things will only be harder as a split Congress threatens political gridlock in Washington.

With Republicans pushing forward an extension of the Bush Era tax cuts for the upper class, it will be interesting to see how the Democrats seek either to compromise or fully combat the disastrous economic policies which contributed to the economic collapse in the first place.

All things considered, it is fair to say there is not a real vote of confidence for either party, and political gridlock threatens to further alienate public sentiment toward Washington.

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Max's view of the world

By Max Werthan
Staff Madman

Here are 40 items which drive me crazy:

1. Alarm clocks- They always wake me up.
2. Pop quizzes- I never see them coming.
3. Christian anti-Semites- Jesus was Jewish. Your prejudice is oxymoronic.
4. Murderers- They're the number 1 cause of homicide-related deaths.
5. Blackberries- I'm allergic (not racist).
6. Toronto Blue Jays- Get out of the American League.
7. Subjunctive mood- If only it were necessary... nope. I'd still hate it.
8. Divorce- Ruins marriages.
9. Generalizations- They are always bad.
10. Subjectivity- I hate it; others love it. Guess it depends how you look at it.
11. Pinocchio- Lies too much.
12. Honest Abe- Too much truth.
13. Censorship- It's @*#!ing unnecessary.
14. Global warming- The world was a lot cooler before you showed up.
15. Cannibalism- Humans aren't kosher.
16. Kanye West- He never lets me finish....
17. Ban on guns- Only criminals would have them.
18. Kobe Bryant- rape, adultery, ball hog.
19. O.J. Simpson- murder, armed-robbery, fumbles.
20. LenDale White- 2 first names + 0

talent= 1 draft bust.

21. Bernie Madoff- He Madoff with my money.

22. Basil Marceaux.com- More like yahoo.com. But seriously, he's crazy.

23. Scooby-doo- I never know where he is when we got some work to do (now).

24. Wonderbread- I wonder what it is. Oh yeah, bread. What a mystery! Good thing I found Scooby to help me solve it.

25. The wrong side of the bed- I never know which side it is until I wake up on it.

26. Karmic retribution- Because pay-back's (see number 13).

27. Crackpot theories- (see number 14).

28. Money- Mo' money = Mo' Problems, but so does poverty.

29. Catch-22's- (see number 28).

30. Gravity- #1 barrier to human flight.

31. Antoine Dodson- He made me hide my kids and my wife.

32. Lawrence Taylor- He made me hide my kids.

33. Tiger Woods- He made me hide my wife.

34. Charlie- He stole my golden ticket.

35. Squares

36. Burger King- ba ba ba ba I'm hatin' it.

37. Willis- I don't know what you talkin' bout (too soon? Nope).

38. Adrian Peterson- He fumbles footballs.

39. Reggie Bush- he fumbles Heisman

40. John Madden- he fumbles words

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Resident senior news writer 'Fleeces' is at work

By John Wyse
Staff Gossip

Just the other day, I was making my way through the MBA lunch line, anxious for some breakfast burritos and a Shemika-sized portion of French toast. Getting to the front, I reached my hand out to wash my hands with that weird alcohol foam stuff, but I couldn't reach it because another senior was in the way. Suddenly, I realized that the guy blocking me was none other than "little" **Justin Park**; only, he wasn't little anymore. Believe it or not, **JP** now stands at 5'10". (That's taller than our main man **Warren Smith**, if you didn't know.) I was so surprised that I jumped back and accidentally hit my elbow on **Brandon Key's** sweet necklace. The moral of the story is that our class has changed a lot over the years. Here's a look into the senior class over the last month or so.

The MBA Grilling Club is well

underway. **Connor Caldwell** tells me that it's in the process of legally changing its name to the **Meat Club**. After great success at the XC state meet, **Hiller Miggins** can't wait to "put more meat in his mouth with the bros." If any other sport wants a tailgate, just say the word. The meat is ready.

Paul Van Pernis recently discovered his love for Waffle House and late night tippin' in the minivan. He ate his little heart out to the sweet sounds of sizzling bacon, random conversations between stoned employees, and country music. Atta boy, Paulie.

On that note, **Matthew Johnson** and **Carrie Underwood** are engaged to be married on **MoJanson's** 18th birthday (January 15, 2011)!!! **Brad Paisley** is the best man. For the honeymoon **Matthew** is going to run

train on a Daily's and then head to Love Circle. Sounds so romantic.

As far as the class of 11's love lives are concerned, **Nick Kohler's** heart still lives in Florida (awww), **Mason Foote** is still waiting on his first kiss, **Collin Brannon** loves Skype, and **Connor** is probably having more luck with his Tiger

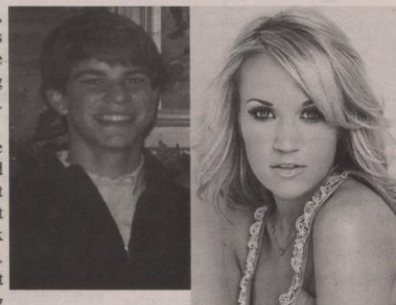
than I did with mine. Also, **Clay Garrett's** obvious flirtations with the college counseling staff are going nowhere with **Ms. Raines**. (Bottom left).

It's safe to say we are all sad to see the end of football season. Shout out to everyone who put up an emotional Facebook status. We love you guys. The silver lining is that **Footer** will now be having parties at every possible opportunity.

Cross Country guys put the competition in the dustpan at state and continued their success at regionals in North Carolina. Hockey is doing its thing. **Gary's** cheezin'. To summarize the bowling team's performance, **Mason Kirkpatrick** lost to **Kelly Lassing** in a heated battle that ended in yelling and tears... just kidding. The average height of the MBA basketball starting lineup is 8'3", while Ultimate Frisbee is led by the **Swain Train** and 14 other seniors (TOOOOT TOOOOT).

Although scientists didn't think it was possible, **Tyler Cauble** got even harder when he got a tattoo the size of Africa and... wait for it... enlisted in bartending school (I know, right?). He is now the favorite in every possible fighting matchup against Ryan kids trying to hit on his girl.

Lord of the Flies last week

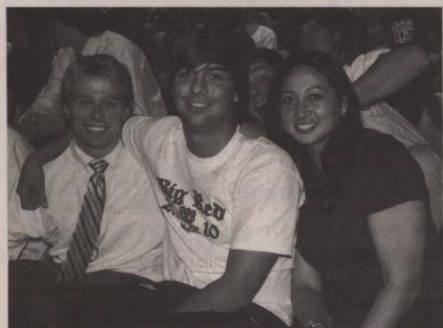


Couple of the Month: Matthew J and Carrie U.

starred **Ford Altenbern**, **Chris Goodrich**, **Philip Danieley**, and **Cedric Smith**. **Cooper Thomas**, **Will Lee**, **Marc "Jiggy" Giguere**, and **Andrew Wright** did their thing behind the scenes. It was a grand success.

Rob McArthur and **Mr. Smyth** are BFF's. **Jarvis Werkhaven** killed a man who insulted his Black Ops strategy of using only tomahawks. **Will Norton** went to town reppin' his afro. **Braxton Fralick** enjoys being tickled. **Foojeringtination** is tired. **Paul Bamson** needs crutches, **Will Granbery** is more excited from the opening of *Harry Potter* than he is about **Chase Owen's** promise to dunk over **Corn Elder**, and it's **Andrew Powell's** birthday! Happy birthday, Coach.

Hang in there, class of 2011. Only a few more weeks until it's second semester. Real Talk. Roll Red.



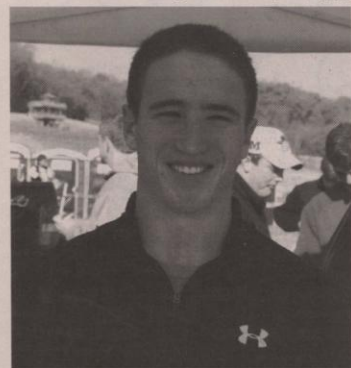
Clay Garrett tries in vain to make Ms. Raines jealous by putting his arm around his good buddy Mason Foote.

Random junior class ramblings plus much more

By Scott Dalton
Staff News Gatherer

As the holiday season draws near, the junior class is particularly thankful for all of the many blessings that have been bestowed upon them daily on The Hill. These blessings include but are not limited to... **Baker Swain**.

Daniel Bellet was last seen 8 miles downstream from the house of **Jonathan Reilly's** buddy **Eminem**. Daniel was spotted in a freezer with a small gorilla in a diaper.



John Mark Bellet flashes a pretty smile.

They were mistaken for twins. Speaking of twins, **Dan "The Artist Formerly Known as Daniel" Mace** was mistaken for a Danwhal off the coast of Nova Scotia. Fortunately, **Gray Jones** was on the deep sea Arctic fishing expedition that spotted the animal, and **Gray** was able to put the myths to rest.

In other news, **Noah Fardon** has yet to find his jaws. If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of Noah's jaws, please email Mr. Tillman. **Jack Whitson** is continuing his world wide beach volleyball tour which is now currently stationed in France. **Kevin Murphy** is vying for a spot on the Olympic water ski team and will have to beat out only **Alex Hagar** for a spot. **Jamie** and **John Bradshaw** would like everyone to know that they are giving out free hugs today and that they will only respond to the title "The Bash Brothers." **Jake McDonald** wanted to be a bash brother, too, but he just got stuck with "Goldberg."

In recent foreign travel news, **Rob Edwards** will not be attending the Eton College exchange despite the wishes of the entire MBA faculty and staff. However, **Chris Meluch** will be going to England this semester, packing only

a pair of U.S.A. boxers and a pair of aviator sunglasses. He will not be trading any Pokémon cards while he is gone. Speaking of Pokémon, **Henry Richardson** was spotted using "rock slide" outside of the Carter building yesterday...sick move, bro.

My cousin, **Joe Scherrer**, in a selfless act of awesomeness, finally built a particle accelerator that shoots tiny air particles at the speed of light. The accelerator will effectively rip a small hole in a piece of paper. When Joe playfully fired it at **Bryan Oslin**, Bryan was subsequently carried to the hospital on a stretcher and treated for a broken ear lobe. Despite all of the scientific genius floating around our class, **Blake Bars** has yet to understand how Newton's 2nd law is actually true.

Augie Houghton killed a guy with a trident. **Daniel Peters** has offered him a place to lie low for a while in hopes that everyone will just forget about it. **Wills Brooks** insists that the deed was for the good of the survival-rate population, according to some guy who wrote a book in 1960 and only did drugs a few times. **Wills** is still NOT a hipster.

My bro, **Logan Standard**, now has 6 girlfriends. He says, and I quote, "I wanted one for each day of the week, rest on the Sabbath." **Palmer "Stank-a-Lank" Campbell** only goes for the women over 30. In other news, **Aaron Simonis** is starting a



Will Peffen practices for an Armani shoot.

donation fund in order for **Clay Sullivan** to have enough money to fill in his bald spot, or at least put some grass on it or something. Please see **Blake Schmidt** for details.

David "The Cuban Missile Crisis" Arteaga now has the coolest nickname in school. You're welcome. **Cayce Ortale** paid me 24 Krystals to put his name in here. Time well spent. And, of course, **Tim Bulso's** name had to randomly appear.

Jamie Joyce is now the CEO of Prestige Worldwide, so, if you see him, congratulate him on that. **John "Escape from Guantanamo Bay" Mitchell** is sad because **John Elam** refuses to make bunk beds with him. **Tanner Yancey** has agreed to buck up and ride on **Hoke Smith's** long

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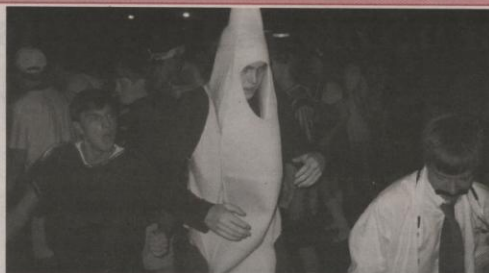
Scott's article was too awesome for just one page

...continued from previous page.

board...without a helmet. **James Kay's** solo debut album, "Pieces of me: songs from my diary," has now broken Billboard's Top 10. **Robert Hoover** has continued to wear a different colored tux to school every day. And finally, **Kelly Haselton** has refused to

get out of **Edward "Folk's Around Here Call me Ed" Wilson's** belly.

Well that's pretty much it. Questions? Comments? Call anyone but me at (369)-(CHILL)-(YOU'RE)-(FINE). And remember, when your family re-locates from Hawaii to Colorado, get on your surfboard and GO BIG OR GO HOME, bro.



Scott, DP, and Gray take "going bananas" to a whole new level.

Sophomores think about a few different things

By McLean Hudson
Staff Sophomore

I don't know about anyone else, but I can already feel Christmas Break. We just have to get through two more weeks... and exams...so these next few weeks will probably seem like a year, and each day will be a little more prolonged. Now is when we just have to celebrate the little things.

Speaking of celebrations, let's give a shout-out to the 10th-grade football team, which won the city championship a few weeks back, rolling over Maplewood 39-32. The combined score for all the games was something like 300-32, led by **Gary Jackson**, who averaged just over 2 touchdowns per carry. Roll Red. Also, **Alex Smith** placed 9th in the state XC meet at Steeplechase and competed along with the rest of MBA's team (the best team in the history of TSSAA) at regionals over Thanksgiving.

On to the real news: **Adam Bowman** is getting a Facebook. Your news feed is about to be overrun with puns. In other

news, **Jake Simon's** brothers created an airplane. **Will McFadden** is playing Ultimate again, and **Hunter Tidwell** is teaching himself computer programming, bringing him one step closer to world domination. **Jake Macey** caught his third Pokemon recently, and **Tommy Douglas** couldn't think of anything clean to say.

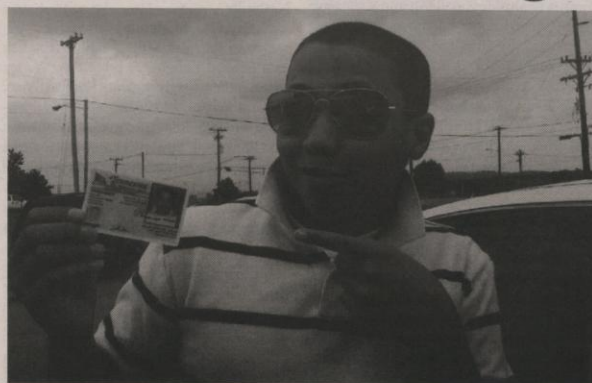
Robby Mills likes wild horses and eating salads, and **John Powell** asks, "What kinda stuff?" C'mere **Jack Emerson**. **Siktberg** is reportedly Senior (not a typo) Gray's favorite student, but that's probably because he isn't capable of learning the "adios song." **Dallas Gibson** apparently plans to viciously maim **Christian Sargent** if he doesn't quit talking trash. In the **Tate Ramsden** scholarship saga, Tate has decommitted from **North Texas** due to pecuniary reasons. He now plans to attend Miami on a full-ride scholarship. Unfortunately, the U doesn't have a men's team, so he'll be stuck practicing the back stroke. Hmm, keep it clean, Ramsden.

The sophomore class of MBA has a new favorite element: Barium. It has an atomic mass of about 110 lbs. and is most commonly found in the compound **Barry Goldsmith- Ba Au Sm I, Th**.

Due to popular demand, the following is composed of **Mr. Herring** type stuff:

Penn Murfee and **Hayden Deakins** are sailing around the world with **Zheng He**, and **Furman Haynes** is all jacked up on Whig Ideology. There seems to be an overwhelming geo-political shift in "this" general direction that may or may not result in a Puritan Utopia, much like the 60's. The good news is: due to a slight rise in demagoguery, such a quagmire will likely be avoided. Si, Señor.

Recently, an epidemic of CoD fever swept through the MBA community, tallying up a host of victims, including **Dallas Gibson**, **Andy Seay**, **William Yang**,



Dallas Gibson just doing his thang...with a popped collar. Courtesy of Facebook.com

Marcus Riley, and many more. If you know of anyone that has gone missing, please report it immediately to Mr. Herring. A few good things have come of CoD fever's arrival, such as **Ryan Potter's** 2.97 kill-to-death ratio. Reportedly, **Kevin's** dad likes playing more than he does. His gamer tag? Probably something like MajorWang010. But that's just a guess.

This brings us to the newly created portion of the news, Facebook stalking... **Brooks Best** can't wait 'til next year, **Paul Moore** is goin' hammer, **Tarun Mallipeddi** (an honorary sophomore) likes iPods, and **Wilson Johnson's** second Xbox got the red ring. Bummer. **Kevin Wang** took the "what kind of Asian are you" quiz, and got "You're Chinese!" Uncanny...Ni hao ma? **Jack Benton** and **Furman Haynes** are weighing the pros and cons of Mormonism, which looks better and better every Saturday night. Unfortunately, there's not a whole lot of MBA stuff on Facebook, because it's all cluttered up with cliquy girls telling each other how beautiful they look in their profile pictures.

While sifting through that riff-raff, **Zach Waterman** chatted me and began to tell me exactly what he thought of MBA people. Most of the comments weren't suitable for a publication such as this, so here is the cleanest of the conversation: **Falkner** is insecure, **Dallas Gibson** thinks he's gangsta, **Will Campbell** is way too cool for school, and he misses **Millwee**. **Robert Papel** is still his favorite, but **John Mellow** is a close second. Oh, Waterbags, how did we manage to get along without you?

Jack Emerson loves **Chandler Burgess** to the stars, **Sam Turner** says **Patrick Moody** is bad at bowling. **Robert Papel** won the "Best Communicator" award for crew this year. I didn't even know they had an award less prestigious than "most improved." **Bennet Maxwell** likes to sleep, and **Kamran Ansari** says "hi" and something about the Falcons.

Since I still haven't started my homework, there's no conclusion to this column. See ya later, homies.



Alex Smith took 9th at Steeple Chase in the State XC meet. 3-peat anyone?

The Freshmen class is ready for anything y'all

By Wells Hamilton
Staff Writer

It's already nearing exam time, as the freshman ask themselves what happened to the other half of the year. Also, with the subsequent ending of the football season, many freshmen will be awkwardly displaced on Friday nights.

For the freshman wrestlers, however, this means a spot in the varsity locker room. **Blake Patton** and **Ben Barton** celebrated vivaciously, but the change will

not be so great for **Jashon Robertson**. Hopefully, he and **Travonte Easley**, as well as new wrestlers **Jordan Whittaker** and **Bryson Jarret**, can add a touch of football spirit to the wrestling team.

The first bonfire mixer was less than expected because of questionable "sanctions" on specific "unacceptable genres of music" being played. **DJ Colt 45** was unhappy. I'd like to take this opportunity to say this wasn't my fault, and I can't control the weather, so if you get a little precipitation on you, it isn't my problem.

However, **Alex Bars** remarked "Huh, Huh, I guess it was okay."

On a lighter note, the freshman-heavy choir has had two performances quite recently at MBA. The main anchor of the group, **Marty Poe**, has a voice that resembles sweet gold mixed with honey. **Charlie Hawkins** believes this to be so true that he often records Marty's voice to make sure he is in tune.

Also, due to **Wesley Jenkins'** unceasing efforts, the freshman class has earned a whopping 75 dollars as a part of

its fundraising at the 42nd avenue fields. Known rower **Tarun Mallipeddi** commented, "That's sweet; I'm going to go lift books with my mind." Fellow rower **Tejas Reddy** had similar sentiments.

Freshman have also been flocking to Lacrosse Weights and Running to get in shape for the upcoming season. Breakaway athletes **Chase Matthews** and **Samuel Bamigboye** are expected to represent the freshmen at varsity tryouts, while **Russell Carpenter** anchors the JV. Supposedly, "known attack man" **Sam Harwell** will also be in the mix.

Hispanic Achievers Club promotes service and language

By Sam Weien
Staff Writer

MBA has many clubs across campus. There is the grilling club, the ping-pong club, and even the young Democrats and young Republicans clubs. But only one club, the Hispanic Achievers Club, combines language, culture, and service, making the Hispanic Achievers Club the most unique on campus. *The Bell Ringer* sat down with Sr. Gray and president of Hispanic Achievers Club, Ryan Hill, for a quick interview.

Bell Ringer: When and how was the Hispanic Achievers Club started?

Hispanic Achievers Club: Initially it was a YMCA project, and MBA joined that program. The YMCA program was, however, heading in a direction different from where MBA wanted to go, so we joined an existing program of classes at Paragon Mills, in a Habitat for Humanity neighborhood. Hispanic Achievers Club is in its third year in its current format, working with Paragon Mills School.

BR: What is the main purpose(s) of the Hispanic Achievers Club?

HAC: We seek to promote the use of Spanish among the students, promote Hispanic culture, and serve Hispanic people.

BR: What is the Hispanic Achievers Club doing to promote Hispanic culture across campus?

HAC: This year we are planning a sale of *paletas* (Mexican popsicles) and to have some film nights.

BR: Are there any events that the Hispanic Achievers Club is doing around Nashville?

HAC: On Monday nights at 7:00, we go to Paragon Mills for ESL (English as a Second Language) programs. We try to teach the foreign students English. Also, Edward Wilson is leading a tutoring program on Wednesday afternoons at Cameron Middle School. Edward's group has joined a fairly sizable program of peer tutoring which takes place at the school.

BR: How does the Hispanic Achievers Club add to the Spanish curriculum at MBA?

HAC: We allow students to engage in Spanish in a more personal way, because one can only speak so much Spanish in class, and it is a great feeder into the Wilson

Language Grants. It is a great way to promote and maintain Spanish skills.

BR: Hispanic Achievers Club is one of the many cultural clubs on campus. What makes it different from the other clubs on campus?

HAC: It happens to be more of a service club, rather than a study of Hispanic culture. It involves the students within Nashville's Hispanic culture.

BR: With the new Wilson Language Grants developing, do you think the number of people in the Hispanic Achievers Club will increase?

HAC: The Wilson Language Grants program has already increased participation in the Hispanic Achievers Club. Many more students have joined the club this year. It allows our Spanish speakers to utilize a true Spanish-speaking outlet with a great benefit for both our own students and for the wider community.

Workshop to hone writing skills

By John Mellow
Staff Writer

MBA has an extracurricular activity for seemingly everything: theater, debate, arts and music electives, Science Olympiad, and a whole range of sports, along with countless other clubs and afterschool organizations and projects.

Upon a more complete reflection, however, one group has been slighted amid this plethora of activities – writers.

This year, though, the patchwork of MBA opportunities will be complete. The English Department plans to begin workshops for writing in the spring for anyone interested in honing his proficiency in prose.

These sessions will begin in the spring

for two days a week, Tuesday and Thursday. The intent is a schedule flexible enough to work with most sports.

Mr. Kelly, who will help run the program, intends to focus not only on creative writing, but on prose in all shapes and forms, from expository writing to journalism and advertising. The goal is not only to allow students to work on their own stories, but also to introduce them to whole new fields of writing.

Participants will learn the language of sports, politics, religion, and more. Essentially, the workshops will let students delve into the mechanisms that make society tick by examining, understanding, and emulating documents of all varieties, identifying how to inform and manipulate a reader, and

writing pieces of their own.

The program offers improvement in writing skills and ideas, not just for one's own independent writing, but also for themes and essays, and has the potential to greatly enhance the participant's aptitude for English expression.

So far, the interest, sadly, has been minimal. So, be sure to let Mr. Kelley or Mr. Moxley know if you might join, to maximize participation and justify the time that they put into it. These workshops offer immense growth in English writing and would be a wonderful addition to the abundance of MBA extracurricular activities.

Science Department gets pumped

By Jake Macey
Staff News Writer

Construction on the observatory is moving forward at the Long Mountain property. The Science Department is extremely excited over the new building.

This observatory will open up an incredible window for not only exploring the sky, but also taking part in research of several astronomical questions that face scientists today.

With its large, almost 20-foot telescope, the observatory is offering a whole new astronomical experience. According to Dr. Dickens, this is one of the newest and most technologically advanced telescopes that he has seen in use by high schools. While others may be sufficient, they are quickly outdated.

One of the most interesting features



Jake says that the observatory does, in fact, exist and is set to open in March.

of this telescope is its ability to be controlled via the internet. No longer must the trek to and from Long Mountain be made, as one can control the telescope from any computer at home.

This feature will not, however, make people fret about visiting the observatory. Dr. Dickens stated that installation of

the new telescope will be sometime in late January, and opening of the observatory itself will be around early March.

As far as use in the Astronomy course, the observatory will obviously help students to learn about the universe. It will also give insight into the evolution of stars, movements within space, and how photons transfer into photos. There has also been talk within the Science Department of offering summer programs for adults to explore the realm of space. This observatory along with the Long Mountain property is opening several amazing opportunities for MBA and its community.

Mathematical Sweetness

By Davis Lovvorn
Staff Writer

Wanting an interview, but fearing I would be hit with another boomerang, I leaned my head into Mr. Golenor's room. When I saw the coast was clear, I went in, only to have Ferriss (ed.: another freshman) hit me in the head with a boomerang. Recovering, I asked Mr. Golenor for some news about the math department.

DL: What happened in the last Interscholastic Math Competition?

MG: The Interscholastic Math League was last week at JPIL. We had a strong showing. Our team was #1 in Algebra I, led by Tony Ding and Alvin Zhang, and Algebra II, led by Sam Hurd and Tarun Mallipeddi. We also won in Statistics, and there were two perfect scores: Adam Bowman and Hunter Tidwell. The team was also second in Calculus, where Carter Callaway and Joe Scherrer led the team.

In Mathcrobe news, Commander Qian is taking them on a strategic battle plan for a unanimous math massacre.

DL: Is there any other news?

MG: Well, if you see Coach Lanier talking to his foot, do not be alarmed - he is following in the footsteps of Ben Franklin. And Mr. Epstein throws things away, but I throw things that return.

DL: Do you have a sheriff update?

MG: Well, the position has changed many times. Sweetness abounds.

Early notice: Arts Festival

By John Mellow
Staff Writer

The visual arts department has shows all the time. Music classes have plenty of concerts. Theater produces plays throughout the year.

Never before, though, have all the performance arts components of MBA coordinated as they plan to do this spring. From Thursday, April 28 to Saturday, April 30, MBA will host its first multidimensional arts festival.

Kicking it off will be One-Acts on Thursday, followed by the opening of a visual arts show on Friday, featuring professional artists. Then, in the early afternoon on Saturday, art, music, and theater will combine to put on a show to remember.

On the quad will be two stages, where 30-minute acts will alternate throughout the day. These acts will include one-act plays, speech and debate exhibitions, and plenty of music from classes and independent student bands.

The entertainment will provide a wonderful atmosphere to browse art from local and visiting artists, as well as student pieces.

Throughout it all, wonderful food will be provided. Organizers are in the preliminary stages of coordinating with the various cultural clubs on campus to provide a variety of food options, contributing to a full and diverse experience.

Students are the driving force behind the whole operation and intend to use some of the profits to support charities of the students' choosing.

The entire event is still in the developmental stages and can only become better as more ideas are welcomed. The festival's mission, however, is already clear: to expose to Nashville the wide spectrum of proud and unique art traditions at MBA and in the community.

Do the monsters reveal the man behind them?

By Jack Hallemann
Senior Writer

From symbolic torsos to a massive harp, MBA's campus has been embellished by many installations in recent years. None, however, has been as well received by the community as the monsters currently displayed. On the assumption that a man who makes monster art for a living would be very interesting, I interviewed the artist, Kevin Webster. I was not disappointed:

Bell Ringer: What inspired you to create these monster pieces?

Kevin Webster: This was something I started doing every year in about 1990 in Memphis, Tennessee. It was a kick, and the neighborhoods I lived in really enjoyed them. I always had one Big Daddy Roth monster-hot-rod theme display when I lived on the Gulf Coast. Starting the first week of October was a Cruising The Coast antique and custom car event - the third largest in the nation, at the time. And the route went rolling

Marty enjoys his cookies, blissfully unaware that the Monster dog is about to come eat them . . . and him.



by right in front of our house. So, I'd make sure to put my Monsterland yard up the day the event started, so the rods would slow down to gawk, and I would reciprocate...an endless stream of cool cars.

BR: For how long have you been interested in monster art, and how did you become interested?

KW: I always enjoyed fantastic stories, starting with childhood fairy tales. My first voracious, serial library absorptions were the Greco-Roman mythologies. I learned to read before schooling, because I was trying to decipher what exactly was in the minds of people who published a magazine full of strange pictures that my father gave me, called *Famous Monsters of Filmland*. The first "adult" book I read was Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, which employed the unique epistolary style of telling the tale as a chronologically assembled collection of diary entries, newspaper clippings, letters, and memoranda written by the various characters. Then, there was a daytime soap opera on TV after grade school called *Dark Shadows*, which featured protagonist vampires and werewolves. So mine was a well developed warp. Many of these characters are somewhat tragic heroes, struggling with the hand dealt them. *Dracula* has always had an interesting class struggle angle, with the aristocracy living off the serfs and bourgeois...but he had a way with women. Smarmy charm.

BR: Now that you've lived in Nashville for a few years, what do you think of it?

KW: Nashville is great. A very erudite and well-mannered, cultured city. Very comfortable, with a moderate climate. I often judge a city by their art galleries, and there are some really great things going on here.

BR: Did you lose many pieces of art to Hurricane Katrina? How did that impact your work?

Archives predict future

The Library's archives show us that nothing really changes on Hill

By McKay Proctor
Staff Writer

In all the buzz concerning video game releases since the last issue, I couldn't help but think about a passage from the MBA archives.

In 1919 an ecstatic news editor wrote, quite prophetically, "Everything in the future is going to be done electrically." He called for "An electric railway which will fly at the astonishing speed of 500 miles per hour." He was not far off from the 357

miles per hour an experimental rail in France clocked recently.

He further predicted "A subterranean electrically propelled land torpedo," which never happened, mainly because the military realized that flying is a lot easier than burrowing.

In passing, the young man referred to "the almost magical wireless telegraph and telephone," as though they were some sort of legend.

The most interesting part of the passage is when he refers to a dance "given recently in New York by music transmitted thirty-one miles," describing one of the first radio-like devices.

Sounds a lot like the hype around "Fallout: New Vegas" and "Black Ops," just further proof that nothing really changes here on the Hill.

KW: Katrina took my 15-year backlog of Halloween yard art monsters along with 40 years of various creations (including comic books I drew at 5). Now, Neptune and his minions can celebrate the holiday in style. I miss my babies, but I figure I'm just now getting good. My as yet unrealized life ambition is to populate a goofy golf, where golfing is optional. A lot of those surreal 50's era tableaux were destroyed along the Gulf Coast--weird lands of dinosaurs, spinning giant ant heads and haunted pirate ships through which to chase a little ball with a stick. Amazing.

BR: What would you say to a young artist contemplating art as a profession?

KW: Different schools of thought on that one. A wise sage would say, keep your day job. This may not have the bohemian romance of it all, but it beats eating oatmeal three times a day, which I did while living in San Francisco...with a vitamin chaser, though, so I wouldn't die. But, I always refused to tailor my paintings and sculpting to a market. I did it for the visions I enjoyed, and where else could I see it? I made my living doing advertising art, in the dark ages of pre-digital, where clients were savages and art directors were raging beasts. T-squares, X-acto blades, and



For weeks now, Mr. Webster's monsters have been lurking behind students' backs. Courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman.

lung-choking spray mount was the ply of my trade. It paid well, but waiting tables was more fun. Then, the desktop revolution came along just as I was beginning to toy with the realization that no one was really doing animation. The fates gelled and my professional calling was answered.

Everything is always in flux. Art is truly a muse. It's a voice, and an outlet that enriches you as you feed it. It is a Zen all its own, that encompasses all forms of creativity.

This one's for Mr. Kelly

The illustrious Paul Van Pernis tells us a story

By Paul Van Pernis
Staff Writer

Have I ever told you the story about the grilled cheese sandwich? Wait, I have? Oh well, I'll tell it anyway - it's a good one.

There I am at about 2 pm on a Sunday afternoon, not having eaten anything all day. I'm getting somewhat hungry but don't really feel in the mood for making one of the 4 foods (cinnamon rolls, cereal, anything in the microwave like the delicious bagel bites or personal pizzas. Gah, I live for those things, as well as break and bake cookies) I don't know how to cook, so I tell my dad who's building a fence outside that I'm hungry. He says, "Okay, go make something."

"I don't know how to cook." I replied.

"Go ask your mother for a sandwich then."

So instead of looking for my mother, I decide that I'm not actually that hungry and take a nice little snooze for an hour or so. When I wake up, I realize that I am actually hungry, but my mom isn't home. Oddly enough, I still didn't know how to cook at that point, so I decide to take my chances and decide to ask my dad, who doesn't particularly like to be bugged while he's doing his yard work. I don't know, I

guess it's his "quiet time." Well, anyway, I walk out to our porch, and yell to my dad, who's about 60 yards away.

"Dad. DAD!"

"What?"

"Where's Mom?"

"I don't know. Why? What do you want," he yells back to me from a distance.

"Well, I was going to ask for grilled cheese..."

"GOSH DANGIT, PAUL!! Are you kidding me," he yells, as he hurls his hammer at a fence post on the ground and begins to stomp from the yard to the house. I begin to chuckle to myself, which in hindsight didn't make my request any more appealing to my father.

From behind the grimace I managed to say, "No, dad, forget it. You're busy."

He ignores my statement and continues to walk towards me. I, not wanting to try to calm him down, quickly scamper to my room and shut the door. About 20 minutes later, I hear the door shut as my dad goes back outside. I wait about 5-7 minutes and timidly leave my room, not really expecting the grilled cheese, but what do you know. I walk down the steps, and sitting there on the counter, is one grilled cheese sitting on a plate. So, in typical Paul fashion, I ate it, put my plate away, and, umm, there you go.

Painter Paul Harmon discusses *Crossing Borders*

By Ryan Hill
Features Editor

I was blessed last week with the opportunity to visit Paul Harmon in his Brentwood studio and learn about his life, work, and passion. Mr. Harmon is a very successful and prolific painter from Nashville, TN, and he was recognized as MBA's Distinguished Alumnus in 2005. However, he neither graduated from this school nor embraced fine arts as his first profession.

Harmon joked that his classmates always thought his mother worked at MBA because she was on campus so often to talk with the headmaster about her son. Because he left the school after his junior year, he was surprised to receive a call from Mr. Gioia in 2005 regarding his honorary recognition. In a conversation with our headmaster shortly afterwards, he was asked about MBA's art department during his time as a student.

"Well Brad, you see that green bench over there?" said Harmon from the quadrangle. "That was the MBA art department." Though he regularly generated artwork for *The Bell and The Bell Ringer* from the aforementioned piece of outdoor furniture, Harmon's artistic outlets on campus were limited.

Despite his lack of aesthetic possibilities at school, Harmon was steeped

in creativity throughout his childhood and teenage years at home. His grandmother, who lived just down the street from him, was the founder of the Nashville Artists' Guild and, consequently, took young Paul to many art shows. He noticed, though, that all the artists in his grandmother's circle had separate professional careers.

"I think any of those artists would have starved to death if that was their only means of support," Harmon recalled. "I didn't think of art as a career. I thought it was something that you were, but not something that you did as a vocation."

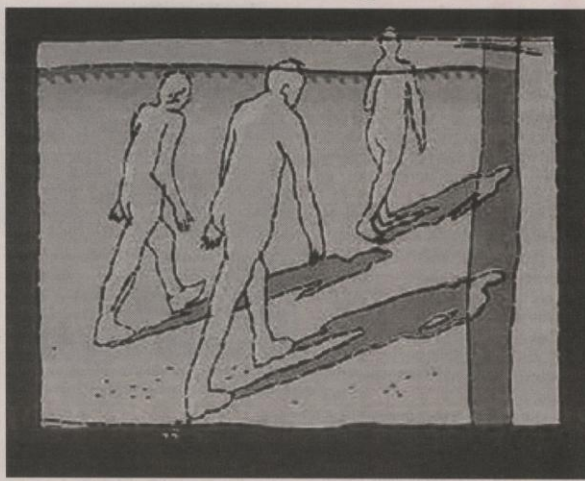
After finishing his education, Harmon started an award-winning advertising agency here in Nashville that would sustain him financially and creatively for twenty years. During his time with the company, he painted frequently, taking care to keep his passion for the fine arts out of the commercial sphere. Eventually, however, as a middle-aged man well into his career, Harmon began to lose interest in his job.

Change finally came after a trip with a friend to Montecagle Mountain. While there, the two visited an old village called Sherwood, which was situated around an abandoned limestone mine. They learned from a local priest that all the town's inhabitants, despite having opportunities to work on the other side of the mountain, remained on their home soil out of loyalty to their familial roots.

"That struck a note with me," said Harmon. "I thought, 'If I'm not really enjoying this, maybe I need to go on the other side of the mountain.'" With the support of his two children and a burning desire to fully commit himself to his art, Harmon sold his extremely successful business to pursue painting full-time.

"My work is really a painted diary of myself," Harmon explained. Because his art is heavily influenced by his environment, he decided to seek a foreign studio after spending many years in Brentwood. "I literally spun the globe," he said, and his search led him to France.

For the next eleven years, Paul Harmon divided his time between his Paris and Brentwood studios. Being completely dedicated to painting after many years of



Le Voyage II is another version of the painting displayed on campus in 2005, when Mr. Harmon was recognized as "Distinguished Alumnus." Courtesy of Mr. Harmon

pursuing it as a pastime, Harmon began to develop his unique style centered around the stencil.

The majority of Harmon's canvases feature this tool, characterized by the heavy lines it leaves around the subject material of each painting. In addition to appealing to him aesthetically, the stencil has provided Harmon with significant artistic power.

"It allows my work to be interpreted more as a group of symbols than as a pretty picture," he explained. Thus a particular woman becomes a universal image of femininity rather than another beautiful face, and reflections of his personal life can apply to millions of people.

Though he originally planned to use this device for only a short period of time, the stencil began to define his canvases for several years. "You can spot Paul Harmon's work at a thousand yards from a speeding car," remarked one French critic, "and it's the same work whether he's painting a 1982 Citroen automobile or an *odalisque* (a reclining nude)."

Not wanting to become trapped in

predictability, Harmon terminated his use of the stencil about five years ago. However, he still often imitates the thick, dark lines it created, so well, in fact, that several gallery owners have failed to notice the tool's absence in his newer pieces.

Most recently, Paul Harmon has begun a series of paintings whose contents change color, texture, or style as they cross lines that divide the canvas. Besides being the inspiration for the title of his new book, *Crossing Borders*, this motif is also a statement on life.

Though we are transformed physically, intellectually, and emotionally by our years of experience, we still have a core that continues, an unchanging central identity. For Paul Harmon, that definition has been one of passion. Never have I been so moved by a person's obvious commitment to and sacrifice for the thing he loves most.

The success rate these days for fine arts painters is frighteningly low, around one twentieth of one percent. Mr. Harmon, however, has defied the statistics and brightened his local and foreign communities with the color and wisdom of his fabulous paintings.



Harmon poses in front of a painting. Courtesy of Google Images.

Ancient, revered art of Yoga comes to The Hill

By Kathik Sastry
News Editor

When it comes to training, athletes have tried just about everything to stay fit and focused. Teams at the high school, college, and professional levels have embraced non-traditional methods from ballet to karate to Pilates.

Starting this year, the MBA Athletic Department has begun to experiment with one such strategy: yoga. Throughout the fall, rowers and off-season lacrosse players have been augmenting their normal workout routines with yoga sessions every Thursday. They are conducted by Hilary Lindsay, an instructor who has previously worked with both the Tennessee Titans and Nashville Predators. New Crew coach Brandy Sherwood helps coordinate the effort.

The inspiration to create this new

program came when yoga classes were first offered to the faculty. Coaches were so impressed by the intensity of the workouts that they felt this opportunity ought to be passed on to student athletes.

Practicing yoga helps athletes develop skills often ignored by traditional, weight-room activities. Perhaps the greatest benefit is increased flexibility. Athletic Director Scott O'Neal ('84) explained that MBA athletes could benefit from extra preparation in this area, which is critical for preventing injuries.

Yoga also improves the participants' ability to breathe when under stress, allowing oxygen to flow more quickly to the muscles and reducing fatigue on the field. This is very relevant, considering that ancient epics (such as the poem *Mahabharata*, circa 600 B.C.E.) mention warriors using yoga to calm their minds and focus their

strengths before battle.

There is an apparent, inherent clash between a traditionally meditative activity and the culture we have on The Hill. "MBA students may initially shy away from yoga because it seems too 'soft,'" Coach O'Neal pointed out. "But once you take part, you realize how demanding and physically stimulating it is. And that's exactly what we're all about."

To encourage greater participation, the Athletic Department is keeping the program open to all strength and conditioning groups. It has already been confirmed that the football team will begin to incorporate yoga into its off-season workout regimen this winter. Coach O'Neal hopes that the yoga program will expand in the future and believes this unique opportunity can "benefit every one of our sports here at MBA."



You may look a little silly while practicing it, but Yoga helps with both flexibility and strength.

The Office becomes awful

By Sam Weien
Staff TV Critic

As many people know, Steve Carrell, who plays Michael Scott in *The Office*, is leaving *The Office* at the end of the year. NBC needs a way to gradually replace Michael Scott without many people noticing, but so far it has not been an easy or smooth transition.

NBC has made episodes that could be viewed completely even if Michael Scott was not in it, such as "Andy's Play". NBC is also bringing in new characters to offset the upcoming loss of Michael Scott. In "The Sting", they introduced a traveling salesman named Steve Nash into the Dunder, Mifflin workforce, and Gabe Lewis' role, Sabre's envoy to Scranton in the show, has increased, too.

Rumors have been thrown around that NBC might bring Ricky Gervais from the British version of *The Office* or Danny McBride from *Eastbound and Down*. However, it will be hard to introduce these people into the show so late.

I have also heard the show might focus around either Dwight Schrute or Jim Halpert. However, a show focusing only those two would not be that interesting. Jim



Ricky Gervais would provide some laughs but he cannot replace Carrell.

and Dwight complement each other during both of their efforts to become manager. Also, Michael's foolish antics can never be replaced by Jim and Dwight's rivalry.

In conclusion, the loss of Steve Carrell, aka Michael Scott, from *The Office* is the loss of the show's distinctiveness, and the show will not go on much longer without Michael Scott.

The Talent Code impresses

By Palmer Campbell
Staff Writer

"Skill is myelin insulation that wraps neural circuits and that grows according to certain signals."

I frequently contemplate what the path to "success" is and how to become world-class at something. MBA students are so often told that they are "the future" of our Nashville community and the world. The students, though, including myself, typically prefer to live on a day-to-day basis where school, athletics, homework, XBOX, Facebook, and sleep are all crammed into a short 24-hour period.

Though we students typically rebel by living on this day-to-day basis, we are constantly *deep practicing* and, thus, wrapping myelin around our neurons to help us grow and become more skillful.

On a neurological level, why is MBA great? Because the people who are the school constantly build a multitude of different skills through *master coaching*, *ignition*, and *mistake-driven deep practice*.

Daniel Coyle's *The Talent Code: Greatness Isn't Born. It's Grown. Here's How* is a remarkable and inspiring book about Mr. Coyle's amazing journey to the talent hotbeds of the world in order to ex-

plore the manner by which ordinary people become extraordinarily accomplished, so called "talented" people.

Coyle travels to Brazil to uncover why Brazilian soccer players are so great, to the Dominican Republic to discover their secret for turning out so many major league baseball players, to the Adirondacks to research the astounding number of world-class cello players and violinists, to a small one-court tennis academy in Russia that has turned out more top 20 players than the entire United States, and to many others.

Coyle also studied "master coaches" like John Wooden and the founders of the Kipp Academy to uncover what made their students to successful and subsequently "talented." In this fast read, Coyle is able to explain why every person has a chance to achieve anything if he/she follows the principles of *The Talent Code*.

This book is a must read for anyone looking for a practical explanation about success because the concept of more homework for success simply is not making the cut. Coyle is also a prospect for MBA's annual father-son dinner, so do yourself a favor by reading this remarkable, conceptual tapestry of tremendous importance.



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Upcoming U2 concert momentous for Nashville

By Tom Markham
Entertainment Editor

Fact: Nashville, Tennessee is known around the world as Music City, USA. I would, at this point in my article, like to point out that the title is *Music City, USA*, not just Country Music city, USA. Sure, the country music industry is dominant and has a very important place in Nashville's economy and culture, but let us not lose sight of the true title this shining city holds.

I bring this fact to your attention because of a trend I have noticed over the past few years, and this trend startles me and brings a very serious question to mind: WHERE ARE ALL THE ROCK AND ROLL SHOWS?!?! Seriously folks, apart from Bonnaroo (which isn't even in Nashville), we as a city are not quite living up to our name. If we are known simply for the Country Music Hall of Fame and for that CMA Fest thing in the summer, then we are greeting the country and the world with an unfortunately deceiving image.

In past years, country artists have dominated the market for concerts in Nashville. Again, I'm not bashing on the country music industry for capitalizing on a favorable location and luring massive crowds with relatively cheap ticket prices, for in my opinion, the more concerts we have of any kind, the better off we



Iconic Irish rockers U2 will play Vanderbilt Stadium in summer 2011.

are. In fact, I think the rest of the music industry could learn something from the country industry's ingenious marketing schemes. So, let me offer the rock and roll industry a tip from country music: COME TO NASHVILLE!

It saddens me that more big-name, mainstream acts are passing up on coming to Nashville. Even hometown heroes Kings of Leon left Nashville off the initial tour dates promoting their new album. How sad.

If you look at the past few years, Dave Matthews Band and, perhaps, Coldplay are really the only shows that the city has truly become excited about on a grand scale. Sure, Paul McCartney

came to the Bridgestone Area this past summer, but come on, Paul, \$200 tickets? Seriously?

Thank goodness the Ryman is still putting forth the effort to maintain at least a shred of Nashville's credibility. Kudos to them for bringing such acts as Vampire Weekend, the Black Keys, The National, and, most importantly, Arcade Fire to this beloved city. But the fact of the matter is, the Ryman is just too small.

I want to know where the rock and roll gods have gone. Bigger cities with bigger populations? Perhaps. It is a shame, however, that Music City, USA gets left in the dust.

Feeling completely despondent for the future of our city? Fear not, my friends, for I bring you good tidings of great joy straight from the rock and roll gods themselves. U2, the hottest rockers on the planet, have announced that they will bring their U2 360° tour to Nashville's Vanderbilt Stadium on July 2, 2011.

This is the legendary band's first stop in Music City in nearly thirty years. This tour of which I speak has shattered records in its size and revenue. Taking about 4 days to build, the 360-degree arching stage reaches 90 feet tall, with a 150-foot tall cylindrical video screen included. This design can support the weight of 180 metric tons.

The total cost of the tour reaches almost a billion dollars. This tour is arguably the grandest in scale in history. And U2 has made a smart business decision. Ticket prices range everywhere from \$30 to \$250, so there's room for every kind of concertgoer.

Nashville owes a great debt to U2 for coming next summer. With this announcement, hopefully no longer will Nashville be cast under the heavy shadow of country music. No longer will mainstream acts, viewing the Nashville music scene as "dead," avoid this city like the plague. Many thanks to Bono and Co. for putting us back on the map as a keystone in the tour stops of the world's biggest rock bands.

Rapper explains how he got the name "Young Buck"

...continued from page 1.

always respected because of its country music... that's what built it. But to have a whole other genre of music coming out in an environment like this, it was a challenge – and that excited me.

BR: There's been a lot of press lately about your financial situation. What happened?

YB: It was more of what I *didn't* do. I honestly wasn't aware of a lot of the business parts to my situation as an artist. From the beginning, it was "in house". When I say "in house," I mean that my manager, Sha Money, was also the president of my label and the CEO's (50 Cent) best friend. My accountant was also 50's accountant, as well as Sha Money's accountant, as well as Lloyd Banks' and Tony Yayo's accountant (the other artists on the label). My attorney at that time was recommended through 50 Cent's attorney...understand? From the beginning it was all done for me. I had *no control* over the situation. I never filed my own taxes or was made aware of what was being filed or ever read my own royalty statements.

BR: Speaking of 50 Cent and Lloyd Banks, your name often comes up in the media along with theirs. What is your relationship to them – business and otherwise?

YB: I have no personal problems with 50 Cent, Lloyd Banks, Tony Yayo, or anyone associated with G-Unit. There's no communication there at all. There hasn't been for the past three or four years. So personally, there's no relationship there now. But, there's no beef or anything there either that would prevent me from moving forward with my career, nothing to even comment on. Would I do business with them again? – It could be done now that I'm more aware of my personal affairs. But they'd have to be willing to meet me half-way. So, it would

have to be different.

BR: You've gotten a lot of buzz and positive press about your recent mix-tape. It was #1 on most of the major sites, and after it came out, you were a trend topic on Twitter for two days. What distinguishes this from your prior work?

YB: That's a real good question. I'm more of a mature artist now, I guess. Like I said, my music is based off of real-life experiences. With this mix-tape, I've been going through a lot. I'm interpreting reality. This point has been the worst point of my whole career financially... and overall. There's a hunger pain that needs to be filled.

I always put my heart into everything I do, but I'm not getting any younger. As I get older, I get wiser. And with this one, I would say that you're hearing a more mature Young Buck.

BR: Are there any artists or producers in particular that you're really interested in working with?

YB: Yeah, I'd definitely like to work with Jay-Z before I leave this earth. He's one of my favorites. Kanye West. Ice Cube. I've always really enjoyed working with Snoop Dogg. I could work with him at any time. We're close friends and I've always considered him as a big brother or a mentor. But my favorite artist would be to be Scarface. I'm definitely looking forward to working with him on an album. I would consider him the king of south, the person who is most respected and has the most longevity in his art. I expect that in the artists I work with. In other formats, working with Phil Collins would be good. Tim McGraw, because he

was the guy that constantly beat me out for the number one spot out of the two LP's I dropped. Maybe that Brad Paisley cat. I definitely like OutKast. They reinvent themselves as artists every time they drop an album. I don't know... I enjoy taking risks as an artist, and I've found that a lot of the time the individuals that you feel like you wouldn't work with, often times end up being some of the best music you come up with and also the best people you've ever worked with.

"Working with Phil Collins would be good. Maybe that Brad Paisley cat." - Young Buck

BR: What's your favorite tune from this last mix-tape and why?

YB: If I had to pick, I'd say "AM/FM" featuring Lupe Fiasco. Lupe is definitely

one of the rappers that speaks more to the conscious crowd, meaning the more MC-driven group. To come out with the record we did together – it's probably the most powerful record I've ever recorded. It's getting radio play right now here and overseas.

BR: I understand that you never finished high school. As a parent, how important do you feel school is and how would you improve the school system?

YB: I definitely feel that education is the basis of success. It's the foundation. Your chances of being successful are so much greater with an education. I definitely wouldn't suggest that anyone drop out. If I could do it over, I would have walked an entirely different path when it comes to school. Despite my tough situation, there's no excuse...even for me. It's something we all need and should seek to get. One of the things I would change would be busing inner-city kids out of the environment in

which they live. Their parents can't make it back and forth to school to deal with certain problems that may occur with their child or be there to support their child in sports. I know from my own experience, being a resident of North Nashville and then being bused way out to Bellevue Middle School. Improve the schools in their areas, instead of busing these kids to different parts of the city. I would also definitely want poetry to be a bigger part of teaching. It was one of the only things that I really, truly enjoyed in school. It was never a class on its own... but it was almost like an escape for me, as a child. Poetry pertains to so many things like music, theater and spoken word. I think it should be considered a subject on its own.

BR: Last, but not least, where did the name "Young Buck" come from?

YB: Young Buck came from these guys in the streets. I was one of the youngest individuals in my neighborhood out doing things I wasn't supposed to do. I used to hustle. To be honest with you, I used to sell drugs at a young, young age. I was around a lot of older cats. I've never had a relationship or any other bond with people my age. I've always been amongst older individuals. I was really defiant at a young age. With no man in my home and my mother struggling to take care of me, my sister, and her sister's kids (of whom she has custody), I wanted to get out and better my life. I jumped off the porch at a really young age. I used to find myself in spots, trying to make money where all the older guys would be. They would make statements like "get your little buck-a#\$ out of here," and "you'll never get satisfied until you get locked up, you little young buck." The day I knew it was my name was when I walked into my house this one time and my mother said, "Young Buck, take this trash out!" Once my mother called me that, it's never left me since.

A good comedy to see



The unlikely team of Robert Downey Jr. and Zach Galifianakis perform well in the recent comedy *Due Date*.
Photo courtesy of Google Images.

By Walton Macey
Staff Movie Maven

If you have seen the commercials for this fall's newest comedy, *Due Date*, you know this movie has tons of potential for laughs. It features the very talented Robert Downey, Jr. from those *Iron Man* movies and from *Sherlock Holmes*.

Downey, Jr. plays an architect trying to make it across the nation in time for his daughter's birth.

Zach Galifianakis plays Ethan Tremblay, the crazy, weird, washed-up actor

who seems to thwart Downey, Jr.'s every chance at making it home. You probably remember Galifianakis as being the whacky Allan in last year's *The Hangover*. His character in *Due Date* is just as funny as Allan and may be a little more bizarre, so you will not be disappointed.

While watching *Due Date*, I guarantee you will laugh... a lot. It's rated R for profanity and sexual humor, so don't see it with your parents, and definitely don't see it with a girl. Just go with some bros and get ready to laugh.

Wally's Top Ten...

Great Comedy Duos

1. Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly- *Step Brothers*, *Talladega Nights*
2. David Spade, Chris Farley- *Tommy Boy*, *Black Sheep*
3. Jeff Daniels, Jim Carrey- *Dumb and Dumber*
4. James Franco, Seth Rogen- *Pineapple Express*
5. Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker- *Rush Hour*, *Rush Hour 2*
6. Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson- *Zoolander*
7. Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg- *The Other Guys*
8. Sean William Scott, Paul Rudd- *Role Models*
9. Jason Segel, Paul Rudd- *I Love You, Man*
10. Will Ferrell, Chris Kattan- *Night at the Roxbury*

ABC's comedy "Modern Family" entertains

By Palmer Campbell
Staff Writer

Need a break from your Wednesday night studying? Tune into ABC at 8 o'clock for the hit, new comedy show "Modern Family".

Even though we all thought that the 30-minute comedy sitcom genre was dead ever since "Full house", David and Christopher Lloyd manage to keep people rolling around on the floor laughing week in and week out.

This mockumentary-style family comedy show, going into its second season, is a hit that has been hugely successful because it manages to track three branches of a dysfunctional, but loving, family which has a gay couple with a newly adopted baby

daughter, an older man with his very attractive and much younger Columbian wife with an 11-year old son constantly failing in his attempts to woo women, and a mother of three who married the self-proclaimed "cool" dad.

The show is back for a second season and has kept everyone laughing through the first six episodes, while averaging a mere 9.8 million viewers per show.

Whether it be Mitchell's and Cameron's hysterical banter in their new quest to survive parenthood, Claire's and Phil's constant attempts to raise their children "the right way", or Jay's and Gloria's eccentric methods for helping Manny come of age, "Modern Family" really does have something to make everyone crack a smile and forget about worries, even if it is only for a mere thirty minutes.



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Big Red set State records, compete at NXN-SE

...continued from page 1.

Ryan said, "Michael's rock-hard calves are what pulled me to 3rd place. If I could marry his legs, I would."

As Ryan was saying this, Daniel ran by throwing acorns and yelled, "No, we DON'T like men." Thanks for that clarification, Daniel.

Andrew Powell, in between trying to edit this article, which was only written four days late, replied, "After coming so close with a score of 16 points at Metro, I'm glad we pulled off the 15 at state." Once again, that's my bad, guys.

Alex Smith, who finished 9th, said, "I'm a little bit disappointed we couldn't go 1-7, but I guess I'll take a perfect score."

Finally, 11th place finisher Hayes McCord was unable to answer because he was too busy hunting and enjoying his three weeks off from athletics.

With this dominating victory, the cross-country team repeated as state champions, winning only the 4th state title in team history. All the varsity runners were All-State, and Michael Peters became only the second individual champion in school history, as his calves carried him to an extremely fast time of 16:05 (a firm handshake will be given for anyone who knows who the first state champion was). Additionally, the

team recorded the fastest ever average on the Steeplechase course, averaging a blistering 16:25 over 5000 meters, beating Oak Ridge's old record by a solid five seconds per runner.

Because of their utter domination, the team received coverage from the "real" media, being featured in *The Tennessean* twice, having an article on SportsNashville.net, being the first-page article on ESPN Rise Track and Cross-Country, and even having a video on Youtube.com, which may or may not have been edited by runner DeCoursey Beach.

What's next for the MBA cross-country team? Nothing this year, as the team will re-form next fall, seeking a three-peat. However, the newly formed Wallace Boys Alumni Track Club, consisting of Michael Peters, Daniel Peters, Ryan Hill, Andrew Powell, Stephen Bedard, Alex Smith, Myles Anderson, and freshman alternate Eric Anderson competed at the Nike Cross Southeast Regional last Saturday.

In the most competitive Southeast Regional in the history of Nike Cross Nationals, Michael took 6th, Daniel 15th, Ryan 17th, Andrew 45th, Myles 168th, Stephen 174th, and Alex 222nd. The top four ran a remarkable average of 15:42, without a doubt the fastest in Tennessee history. While the team was disappointed by narrowly missing a trip to Portland to compete in Nationals (and all the sweet Nike gear that goes with it), they were consoled by remembering how much they had already accomplished this year.

Yesterday, the team got together, put the race behind them, and started planning and preparing for a Track season for the ages. Spoiler: there are at least six school records that the distance squad plans to take down this spring.

Left: The Wallace Boys Alumni (WBA) competed for and nearly landed a bid to Nike Nationals on Saturday. WBA waffle design by Chris Smith.



The "Fab Five" (as dubbed by the press) immediately after finishing the race (aka immediately before consuming fried Honey-Buns). Courtesy of Mike Strasinger



Dropping 15 On The State

SE#7 Montgomery Bell boys hang eye popping 15 on D-II A, sweeping top 5 places. TN State Meet.

The Big Red quickly received national attention and was featured on the front page of *ESPN Rise* within 24-hours. Photo courtesy of ESPN Inc and Maria Caldwell.

The MBA cross-country team would like to thank the many people who contributed to our victory. We would like to thank our incredible coaches Mr. Russ, Mr. Pruitt, Mr. Kamm, Mr. Gillespie, and Mr. Villemain (even though Villemain's allegiances were split as he had a brother running for another team at Regionals).

We would also like to recognize our awesome JV team, especially state alternates Myles Anderson, Eric Anderson, and David Arteaga, who often trained with us. Finally, but certainly not least, we would like to give a Big Red Shout-out to Connor Caldwell and the grilling club for putting the meat in the meet, and all of the fans who came out and supported at state.



Rhyno Hill charges across the finish line at the Nike Cross Nationals - Southeast Regional. He was third in the chain of Wallace Boys Alumni near the front of the pack, behind the two Peters brothers. Photo courtesy of Runnerspace.com

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MBA Hockey looks to continue strong start

By George Swenson
Staff Writer

With almost a half a season under his belt as coach of the MBA Hockey Team, Coach David Deutsch is doing an inspired job leading the team.

Impressive wins over Independence, Centennial, and Father Ryan show that the hockey team is making great strides in the beginning and is hoping to continue this winning pattern as the season progresses.

Much of this early success is due to the outstanding leadership of the captains: Max Coyle, Christian Alford, and Scott Dalton.

Coach Deutsch has also implemented new ideals to guide the team on and off the ice. The team motto- "Learn, Lead, and Serve"- provides a basic code for the players to follow. According to Coach Deutsch, "Learn" means working hard to understand both the physical and mental nature of the game while at the same time maintaining balance in one's life among school, sports, and social activities. "Lead" means acting with integrity and being a positive example for others. Communication both on and off the ice is vital to the success of this program. "Serve" means looking out for one another. Every action should reflect positively on oneself, MBA, and the community.

In recent news, the NFL has been handing out severe punishments for helmet-to-helmet hits, which frequently lead to concussions. These punishments have led to much speculation that many other sports including hockey may begin to issue punishments or alter the rules.

Coach Deutsch feels that concussions are and should be a major concern. Although tremendous equipment improvements have been made, the players are simply bigger, stronger, and faster. He would like to see an increase in severe

penalties called for any checking that results in contact with the head. To halt these dangerous actions, Coach Deutsch feels that issuing multiple game misconducts, assessing fines on schools and parents, and calling match penalties (defined as penalties with intent to injure) may be the only solutions.

The future for this season's Big Red varsity hockey team includes many top-notch opponents, including JPII and Brentwood High School, whose games are scheduled before the playoff run begins in February. From here on out, every game will be a "big" game, and the Big Red Nation should expect to see some very exciting games typifying



Connor Pagnani lays a big hit on some poor opponent.

the up-tempo and physical Big Red brand of hockey. In the lasting words of Coach Deutsch, "We eat meat."



Connor Griffin moves up the ice for the Big Red.

MBA Crew going full-steam ahead, rollin' Red

By Rob Edwards
Staff Writer

It is not only one of the fastest growing sports at MBA, nor is it just a team that is quickly gaining a strong reputation all around the southeast. No, the MBA crew team is much, much more.

As the first high school rowing team in Nashville, and one of the few select high school teams in Tennessee, the MBA crew team has a persona of uniqueness and dedication that is rare to find in a team with less than two years under its belt.

Most of you have heard of the 5:00 a.m. start time for practice, and no doubt many of you think that rowing is something that would be impossible to do because of how early it is. But, clearly there is something worthwhile about it, as the roster has expanded from 17 people throughout all of last year to 24 people for just this first fall season, and others will be joining this winter and spring.

Not only is the team bigger and better than last year, but we now own all of our own equipment: two 8-man boats, one 4-man boat, 24 oars, 2 metal boats with motors, and a shed out at the lake with a bunch of other equipment stored inside.

The team is making huge progress and firmly establishing itself as a force on campus. There is even already talk of the team becoming an official varsity sport

within the next couple of seasons. This would be an incredibly fast transition compared to past club teams.

The MBA crew team has just completed its 2nd fall season, where the team competed in 5000-meter head races all across Tennessee. One such head race was the Head of the Hooch, the biggest regatta in the south, where there were 16,000 spectators and over 5,000 competitors.

However, spring season is even more exciting, because we race intense, 2000-meter sprint races that demand a higher level of physical fitness and motivation. This spring we will be traveling to sprint races all across the eastern United States, and it is going to be a ton of fun. If you even have the slightest interest in being a part of this team, you should come out and give it a shot, because it's really awesome being out on the water every day, and rowing is the ultimate team sport.

We have winter training until February 24th, when we'll be back out on the water preparing for our biggest season ever. So, all of you should come out and join!

Interested in rowing for the MBA Crew team?

Simply email "MBA Rowing Team" on first class, and tell the coaches in which season you would like to participate!!!

New teachers revisited

...continued from page 7.

Tim Boyd, history teacher.

BR: What is different about MBA from what you expected?

TB: Students and faculty take part in a far broader range of activities than I had ever imagined. I knew coming in that MBA placed great emphasis on an "all-round" education and experience, but I had not anticipated the extent of it: that students and faculty take part in so many courses, sports, arts, and service activities is truly to everyone's credit and adjusting to and enjoying this has been a central part of my experience this semester.

BR: What did you expect to find, and not find?

TB: I expected to find a lot more formality than is the case. MBA's rules and curriculum are far stricter and more rigorous than the school I attended. I wondered how much this would affect the level of collegiality and interactions between faculty and students on campus. As it is, I have found out that while everyone takes MBA and its mission very seriously, no-one takes themselves *too* seriously and this produces a lot more open and friendlier an environment than might have been the case.

BR: If you could change one thing about MBA, what would it be?

TB: Set up a cricket team.

BR: How is MBA different from your previous school?

TB: My school was a "comprehensive school" with no dress code, a different rule structure, and far fewer resources and opportunities available to students than at MBA. My school was also co-educational and no students drove their own car to school. Plus, we did have a cricket team...

BR: What has been your favorite lunch day?

TB: Pulled pork, squash casserole, green beans.

Tyler Meredith, music teacher.

BR: What is different about MBA from what you expected?

TM: The Totomoi induction ceremony was not what I expected it to be.

BR: What did you expect to find, and not find?

TM: I did not expect to be answering student emails on the weekend. It's a neat thing that the classroom isn't confined to the physical limitations of a building or school day.

BR: If you could change one thing about MBA, what would it be?

TM: I've had a great experience so far, and I think it is a bit premature for me to start thinking about changing things.

BR: How is MBA different from your previous school?

TM: Having an academic dean with an advanced degree in music. That's pretty sweet.

BR: What has been your favorite lunch day?

TM: Fire-roasted wings.





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Professor Dalton illuminates "Awkwardness"



Mason, Cooder, and Elic just cannot figure out what to do with their hands! Somebody please help!

By Scott Dalton
Staff Winner

Awkwardness. It's that strange sensation you feel when you see that guy/girl you know from that place, you know, that time when you played Scrabble with some friends and he/she was there. Dude, IGBOK, I can guarantee no one remembers who that is.

Awkwardness is a situation that is rarely addressed because it is so awkward even to talk about. But, fortunately for you, I am going to bite the bullet here and divulge some secrets about everything that is awkward. Let's start with common situations.

Walking an awkward distance from someone you know and to whom you almost never speak is a common, uncomfortable situation. Many questions are probably rushing through your head right now: "Should I yell, due to the current displacement of the other person being roughly 25 meters?" or "Do I make direct eye contact and stare at him for the remaining time of 10 seconds until we cross paths?" The answer to both is NO. When walking at a distance of an uninterrupted (no other people or animals in the way) 30+ meters from someone, you have many fairly simple options. 1.) Pretend to tie your shoe. This way the person knows that you care about your general appearance which is a Norwegian sign of respect. 2.) Look down the entire time. This way

the other party recognizes that you hate him and probably don't want to interact with him, again a sign of respect. 3.) My personal favorite, pretend to engage in an endurance hunt with a squirrel. By engaging in an endurance hunt, you are not only displaying your innate ability to stalk prey, but you are given a chance to show off your personal agility and passion for woodland creatures.

Here's a situation that undoubtedly happens once a week: that awkward question in class. You know, that

one kid who thinks that he and the teacher have this "special bond" of humor and mutual respect so he can make these mostly erroneous comments about the curriculum and sometimes make cutting remarks toward everyone in the room. The best thing to do here is cough. Yes, cough. By coughing, the teacher knows two things about you. 1.) You were not in any way, shape, or form, involved in the previous conversation or comment. 2.) The teacher thinks thus, "you have a cold, you barely have enough energy to get out of bed in the morning, you are such a champ for coming to school today."

"Awkwardness. It's that strange sensation you feel when you see that guy/girl you know from that place, you know, that time when you played Scrabble with some friends and he/she was there."



Totes awk: Rhino Hill awkwardly awaits to be inducted into Totomoi, MBA's honorary society which embraces awkwardness (as denoted by the picture).

Let's move to the next subject, handshakes. Handshakes have been increasingly more awkward as adults have tried to make their way into the rap and pop scene. You know exactly what I'm talking about; you know, that awkward situation when you go in for the hand shake and the adult goes in for the moto grip, as to say "what's up, brosef?" Adults, in no way, shape, or form is it ever going to be cool for you to do this. You

are wearing a suit, ergo, you shake with your hand parallel to the floor (exception: when you are on a hill).

When performing a handshake among your friends, it is ok to do any of the following to make them feel stupid for going in for a handshake/knuckle pound: turkey, paper covers rock, jellyfish, snail, rocket ship, firecracker, toilet, stick shift, bowling ball, "knuck if you buck", and many others. This way your friend knows you are totally chill and super creative.

In correlation with the handshake is that awkward "hand rub." It's that situation where you are walking next to someone and your hands touch briefly, then continue back toward the intended range of motion. You should probably understand, first of all, that despite your pride, the other person indeed feels the hand brush. You have 3 options: 1.) say something along the lines of "wow, man, keep your hands to yourself", or 2.) "oh, sorry about that, I was just trying to do stick shift," and finally,

and most popular, 3.) both parties silently continue on as if it never happened. Number 3 is generally the most agreed upon choice because, let's be honest, this situation is totes awk.

I wanted to devote a quick section to the "awkward turtle." Saying "awkward turtle" accompanied by a hand motion that looks more like a Jet Blue airplane makes you not only look stupider, but makes people want to punch you in the face. Whoever came up with the idea that saying "that's awkward" or "awkward turtle" probably still lives with his parents in South Dakota.

Follow these tips, my brethren, and you will find yourself more of a Ferris Bueller and less of a Neville Longbottom, more of an Elvis and less of a Steve Young. And remember, now that you know these things, everyone will be watching you. Alea iacta est, broseidon.



What do I do with my hands? Sophomore Robert Papel struggles to find a comfortable place for his hands.



The crew struggles to hold up their sleek new boat... in spandex.

All photos courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman.